



# NEWS CLIPS

***Your "Voice" for Transportation!***

**MONDAY, 8/16/04**

## **[Bush Tours Florida Hurricane Destruction](#)**

(08/15/2004 © Bradenton Herald)

PUNTA GORDA, Fla. - Marine One flew low over destroyed homes, downed power lines and uprooted trees Sunday, giving President Bush a bird's eye view of the destruction caused by Hurricane Charley. Bush visited the state to assess the damage two days after declaring Florida a major disaster area.

## **[In each county, problems growing in Charley's wake](#)**

(08/16/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Hurricane Charley was long gone Sunday, but the problems it left behind in Florida continued to grow deadlier, more expensive and more annoying. As President Bush surveyed the hardest-hit areas in southwest Florida, officials in Central Florida said delays in restoring power and getting life back to normal were testing everyone's patience.

## **[Conditions promise to tangle traffic](#)**

(08/16/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

If you're one of the unlucky hundreds of thousands of people who will try to return to work today, expect anything but a normal commute. Throughout Central Florida, uncounted side streets still were blocked and hundreds of traffic signals still were not working Sunday evening.

## **[Topography, Economics Fed Danger In Charlotte County](#)**

(08/16/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

PUNTA GORDA - Although Hurricane Charley was so monstrous that it would have wreaked havoc anywhere it came ashore, Charlotte County in particular was a disaster waiting to happen. So many vulnerabilities exist here, and are so tightly interwoven, the wonder may be that more people didn't die, and there wasn't more damage.

## **[Taking steps to keep the port safe](#)**

(08/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

From its perch high above the ground, the video camera at the Blount Island Marine Terminal stared at the open gate below. Suddenly, a car drove through the opening and entered a secure area of the Northside terminal. It triggered an alert, causing the camera -- part of a high-tech electronic monitoring system -- to send images of the gate to a laptop in a nearby police car.

### **He likes the road most traveled**

(08/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Jacksonville-based highway builder John Coxwell will be hitting the road soon, but not to build more of them. Coxwell plans to drive around the state on behalf of the Florida Transportation Builders' Association as its new chairman. And the new position means he'll be spending plenty of time out of the office lobbying on behalf of his fellow road builders.

### **Wider U.S. 192 may be safer**

(08/16/2004 © Florida Today)

In 1985, an accident took the life of a young mother and left her daughter paralyzed. In 1997, U.S. Rep. Dave Weldon, R-Melbourne, invited Dr. Vincent Griffith, the husband and father, to speak to a house subcommittee about the accident in the hope of receiving funding for a road-widening project. After the emotional presentation, funding was approved.

### **Bridge delay fine at nearly \$6.5 million**

(08/16/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

Granite Construction has stopped accruing late fees for the Hathaway Bridge construction project - but not before the fines reached nearly \$6.5 million. The state 'accepted' the project on July 30, according to Tommie Speights, spokesman for the Florida Department of Transportation.

***TUESDAY, 8/17/04***

### **New interchange opens today**

(08/16/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

The new interchange at Interstate 95 and St. Augustine Road in the Mandarin area of Jacksonville opened today, meaning it will be available as an option for rush-hour commuters this evening. The interchange has been called the "back door" for Mandarin because motorists can reach St. Augustine Road without using interchanges off Interstate 295.

### **Orlando cleans up the mess**

(08/17/2004 © Florida Today)

ORLANDO -- Vehicles still crept through one intersection after another on most major roadways Monday, three days after Hurricane Charley wrecked or disabled hundreds of traffic signals in Central Florida's major city. Elsewhere, drivers snaked around obstructed streets in countless neighborhoods.

### **(08/17/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)**

Divers were under the Sanibel Causeway bridges Monday checking for damage from Hurricane Charley. Inspectors from the Florida Department of Transportation were looking for scour or erosion of the sand around the pilings that hold up the three bridges.

### **Commuters cautiously head back to their jobs**

(08/17/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

Commuters heading back to work Monday for the first time since Charley hit maneuvered through Central Florida's obstacle course of debris, detours and dysfunctional traffic lights without too many problems. From U.S. Highway 192 in Kissimmee to East Colonial Drive in Orange County to U.S. Highway 17-92 through Seminole County, traffic flowed slowly, but fairly smoothly.

### **FDOT aid**

(08/17/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

CHIPLEY More than 80 District 3 Florida Department of Transportation employees - ranging from maintenance technicians to bridge divers and traffic signal experts, along with supervisors, a director and a construction engineer - have been deployed to Fort Myers to assist in the recovery effort from damage left by Hurricane Charley.

### **Electronic Toll-Payers To Receive Credits**

(08/17/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

TAMPA - Commuters paying tolls electronically on the Lee Roy Selmon Expressway will get credited for charges made while tolls were suspended as part of the Hurricane Charley evacuations. Tolls were reinstated Monday at 6 a.m. on the Selmon after three days of free rides.

**WEDNESDAY, 8/18/04**

### **Lake roads to get \$190 million facelift**

(08/18/2004 © Daily Commercial)

TAVARES A five-year road plan for Lake County's transportation needs was approved unanimously by county commissioners Tuesday. The total cost of the projects is \$190 million.

### **Flagler Beach gives go-ahead on gateway project**

(08/18/2004 © Daytona Beach News-Journal)

FLAGLER BEACH -- By a 3-2 vote Thursday, the City Commission approved a conceptual plan for the city's "gateway" improvements, along with \$415,000 in grant money to help pay for design and construction. The project would enhance several areas near State Road A1A, including Silver Lake Park and Moody Boulevard, by adding pavilions, crosswalks, decorative signs and landscaping.

### **Green Cove sees bad in MPO**

(08/18/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

To a transportation engineer, making Magnolia and Palmetto avenues in Green Cove Springs into one-way streets to ease congestion on nearby U.S. 17 makes perfect sense. A computer modeling system said so. But to City Council members whose constituents live on those quiet streets, the notion is preposterous.

### **Lee s recovery could take five years - losses could be \$3.5 billion**

(08/18/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

It will take at least three to five years for Lee County to recover from Hurricane Charley, said John Wilson, Lee's director of public safety. Wilson gave a countywide briefing before the county commission Tuesday on all aspects of the recovery efforts around the county.

### **Repairs begin on drawbridge today**

(08/18/2004 © Ft. Myers News-Press)

The Sanibel drawbridge fender system in the main navigation channel was damaged by Hurricane Charley. Debris removal and repairs to the fender system in the main channel will begin today.

### **Delta to begin jet service from Naples in November**

(08/18/2004 © Naples Daily News)

People who want to travel to just about any corner of the planet should be able to start the journey at Naples Municipal Airport this November. A contract to bring the daily regional jet service from Naples to Atlanta's Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport was signed on Tuesday, bringing smiles to the faces of airport officials and business leaders.

### **Southeast Reducing Its Flights From Area**

(08/18/2004 © Tampa Tribune)

CLEARWATER - Southeast Airlines has begun to trim schedules from St. Petersburg-Clearwater International Airport and elsewhere in response to air fare wars, a seasonal decline in travelers and federally mandated equipment changes affecting certain types of aircraft, the airline said Tuesday.

### **Improvements to U.S. 1 given OK**

(08/19/2004 © Miami Herald)

KEY WEST - Construction is expected to begin by early next year on a long-awaited and once-controversial project to improve hurricane evacuation and safety on the 18-mile stretch linking the Keys to the mainland, after a decision by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to let the project go ahead.

### **New coastal highway could ease congestion**

(08/19/2004 © Northwest Florida Daily News)

One solution for the Fort Walton Beach/ Okaloosa Island traffic problem - and a much less costly one than the proposed new bridge - would be to encourage through traffic to stay on what could be a newly constructed, limited access (or no access) highway connecting Navarre Beach to Santa Rosa Boulevard.

### **Delta likely to cut more jobs to avoid bankruptcy**

(08/19/2004 © Orlando Sentinel)

ATLANTA -- Struggling Delta Air Lines Inc. plans additional job cuts as part of its effort to avoid bankruptcy, chief executive Gerald Grinstein said late Wednesday in a memo to all employees.

**FRIDAY, 8/20/04**

**Technology offers efficiency of a rail, flexibility of a truck**

(08/20/2004 © Florida Times-Union)

Thursday night, a train rumbled out of a Westside railyard on its journey to Fort Wayne, Ind. Amid the regular lineup were several railcars of a different sort that could change the business model for short-haul intermodal rail service. The new type of railcar on its debut ride was a chassis capable of hauling cargo containers along both highways and railroads.

**Copter ride gives candidate platform for Tri-Rail proposal**

(08/20/2004 © Miami Herald)

Miami-Dade mayoral candidate Miguel Diaz de la Portilla sat in a helicopter Thursday, hovering over the last vestiges of morning rush-hour traffic to dramatize his solutions to gridlock. Traffic has been a popular topic in the mayoral campaign.

**Trolleys expected to relieve downtown traffic**

(08/20/2004 © Palm Beach Post)

Folks who arrived at the Chamber of Commerce luncheon last week saw something out of the ordinary sitting at the entrance to Benvenuto restaurant: a trolley. The Community Redevelopment Agency put it there to show people exactly what its trolleys will look like when they hit Boynton Beach streets.

**County covets bridge late fees**

(08/20/2004 © Panama City News Herald)

It might be a grand idea, but it probably won't float. Bay County Commissioners voted unanimously and enthusiastically Tuesday to ask the Florida Department of Transportation to apply Hathaway Bridge late fees to the Grand Lagoon Bridge replacement project.

**Weight limit raised for relief supplies**

(08/19/2004 © Tampa Bay Business Journal)

The state of Florida on Thursday suspended the weight restrictions on trucks transporting emergency agricultural products or equipment to and from areas hit by Hurricane Charley. The Department of Transportation raised the weight limit on trucks from 80,000 pounds to 95,000 pounds.